

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is requested. Claims 1-14, 17-25 and 29 remain in the application. Claims 30-33 have been withdrawn from consideration. Claims 1, 3-4, 10, 17-21, 23 and 29 have been amended. Claims 15-16 and 26-28 have been cancelled. Independent claim 1 has been amended to essentially include the limitations of original claims 15 and 16; and thus, Claims 15 and 16 have been canceled. Independent claim 17 has been amended to essentially include the limitations of claims 26-28; and thus, Claims 26-28 have been canceled. Accordingly, the amendments to claims 1 and 17 do not constitute new matter

Claims 3, 4, 10, 19 and 29 were objected to for several informalities.

Claims 3, 4, 10, 19 and 29 have been amended to overcome these objections and it is respectfully submitted these objections should be withdrawn.

Claims 4-12, 15-16 and 21-25 were rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. More specifically, the Examiner asserted claim 4 should read "a capacity of 16K of data" and the term "high power" in claim 21 renders the claim indefinite.

Claims 4 and 21 have been amended in accordance with the Examiner's helpful suggestions and it is believed the claim amendments overcome the rejection under 35 USC 112, second paragraph.

Claims 1, 2, and 17-19 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Huang (US Patent 4,847,776). Claims 3-14, 20-22, 24-25 and 28-29 were

rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Huang (US Patent 4,847,776) in view of Jacobs (US Patent 6,195,015 B1). Claims 15-16, 23 and 26-27 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Huang (US Patent 4,847,776) in view of Jacobs (US Patent 6,195,015 B1) and in further view of Fergason (US Patent 6,184,969 B1).

Amended claim 1 is directed to an electronic apparatus for use in a parking system including, inter alia, "a housing; a microcomputer disposed within said housing; a time monitoring crystal electrically coupled to said microcomputer to generate accurate timekeeping; a display means electrically coupled to said microcomputer, said display means externally located on a face of said housing, wherein said display means includes a controllable segment configured to allow light to pass through said display means when the controllable segment is off and blocks light from passing through said display means when the controllable segment is on; a corner cube disposed behind the controllable segment of said display means configured to reflect light back to a source external of the apparatus when the controllable segment is off, wherein upon light being directed at said corner cube, the controllable segment is turned on and off to passively transmit data from said apparatus; at least one momentary switch for operating said apparatus; and a battery to power to said apparatus" (Emphasis added). The apparatus of amended claim 1 passively transmits data from the apparatus by turning the controllable segment of the display on and off (see page 25, lines 3-17 of the instant application). Advantageously, the apparatus of amended claim 1 results in low power consumption, low implementation cost and covert transmission. As stated on page 25, line 18-page 26 line 7 of the instant application:

The advantages of this passive transmitter for the in-car parking meters are very low power consumption, low implementation cost and covert, at a distance transmission. Since the passive transmitter needs only to modulate a LCD segment, power consumption for the transmission of serial data requires a only a few microwatts of power making it very suitable for in-car parking meters that operate off of a small Lithium battery for several years. The low implementation cost derives from use of the same LCD for both light modulation and display of human readable information. Additionally, since the modulated light is only returned directly back to the receiver and looks to the motorists as just another LCD segment, the passive transmitter provides a very covert communications channel that can work from several feet away. This allows parking enforcement officers to utilize an external receiver to read additional information about the status of the in-car parking meter not displayed on the LCD in human readable form. This information may contain the serial number, time parked, money in the electronic bank, etc; too much information to put on the display in human readable form as well as information that it would be desirable to limit public access to.

Claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of claims 15 and 16. In rejected original claims 15 and 16, The Examiner asserted "the combination of Huang and Jacobs disclose the use of an LCD screen. However, the combination fails to disclose wherein said liquid crystal display includes a controllable segment, said segment allows light to pass through said display when off and blocks light when said segment is on; and further comprising a corner cube to reflect light back to its source, said corner cube being disposed behind said segment of said LCD display, whereby upon light being directed at said corner cube said segment will be turned on and off to passively transmit data from said apparatus". The Examiner then asserted "Ferguson discloses that reflective-type LCD screens are old and well known in the art...Moreover, Ferguson also discloses that it is also old and well known to use corner cubes as the reflective material of such a system. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of

the invention to modify the combination of Huang and Jacobs with the teachings of Fergason to include a reflective-type LCD screen for a system that requires some type of transmission through an LCD”.

Huang is directed to a microprocessor parking meter internally held in a car. Huang only discloses an LED display having no segments to allow light to pass through and data transmission via a wire 53 to another meter. Jacobs is directed to an in-ground electronic parking meter having an LCD display. While Fergason discloses reflective-type LCD screens and corner reflectors in LCD screens, Fergason does not cure the deficiencies of the combination of Huang and Jacobs. No where in Fergason is it disclosed that the LCD display include “a controllable segment” and “a corner cube disposed behind the controllable segment of said display means configured to reflect light back to a source external of the apparatus when the controllable segment is off, wherein upon light being directed at said corner cube, the controllable segment is turned on and off to passively transmit data from said apparatus” as recited in amended claim 1. Essentially, the controllable segment and corner cube transmit data by allowing the corner cube to reflect light in a serial manner by modulating, i.e., turning on and off, the controllable segment. Huang, Jacobs or Fergason alone or in any combination does not disclose “a controllable segment configured to allow light to pass through said display means when the controllable segment is off and blocks light from passing through said display means when the controllable segment is on; a corner cube disposed behind the controllable segment of said display means configured to reflect light back to a source external of the apparatus when the controllable segment is off, wherein upon light being directed at said corner cube, ***the controllable segment is turned on and off to passively transmit data from***

said apparatus” as recited in amended claim 1. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted amended claim 1 is patentably distinct and not rendered obvious by Huang, Jacobs and Fergason, alone or in any combination.

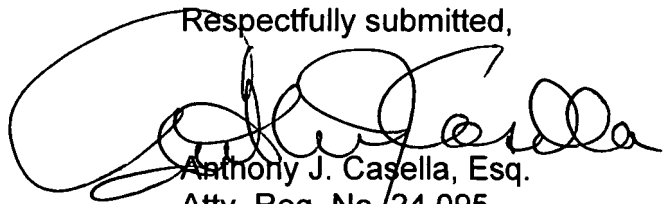
It is respectfully submitted that dependent claims 2-14, depending directly or indirectly from amended claim 1, are patentable for at least the reasons stated above in regard to amended claim 1.

Similarly, amended claim 17 is directed to an electronic parking system including, inter alia, “an in-car parking meter having a first data transferring means and a display, said meter being disposed in an automobile such that said display can be viewed from a location external to said automobile, said first data transferring means includes a controllable segment of the display configured to allow light to pass through said display when the controllable segment is off and blocks light from passing through said display when the controllable segment is on and a reflector disposed behind the controllable segment of said display configured to reflect light back to a source external of the apparatus when the controllable segment is off, wherein upon light being directed at said corner cube, the controllable segment is turned on and off to passively transmit data from said apparatus, and an external transceiver having a second data transferring means, said second data transferring means configured to communicate with said first transferring means of said in-car parking meter, said second data transferring means including a light point source and a photodetector which when directed toward said in-car parking meter passively receives information from said in-car parking meter” (Emphasis added). For at least the same reasons as described above in relation to amended claim 1, it is respectfully submitted that amended Claim 17, along with dependent claims 19-25 and 29,

are patentably distinct and not rendered obvious over Huang, Jacobs and Ferguson alone or in any combination and are believed to be in condition for allowance.

In view of the preceding amendment and remarks, it is submitted that the claims remaining in the application are directed to patentable subject matter, and allowance is solicited. The Examiner is urged to contact applicant's attorney at the number below if the Examiner believes a telephone or personal interview would facilitate the prosecution of this application.

Respectfully submitted,



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8/21/07